

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A knitting method using a stretch yarn for knitting a fabric with a stretch yarn by a knitting machine capable of controlling yarn tension, comprising:

predetermining data specifying relationships between a feed length of the stretch yarn to be used for knitting fed to the knitting machine and a yarn length in a finished state of a knitted fabric obtained by shape memory properties of the stretch yarn, by changing gradually for each of different yarn tensions of the stretch yarn; specifying the finished state of the knitted fabric; and

forming a fabric while feeding the stretch yarn to the knitting machine according to the finished state specified, the yarn tension having the relationships to the data, and the feed length of the stretch yarn.

2. (Previously Presented) The knitting method of claim 1, wherein the finished state is specified by the stitch loop length of the knitted fabric and the yarn tension.

3. (Currently Amended) The knitting method of claim 1-~~or~~2, further comprising:

preparing paper pattern data expressing a shape of a knitted product to be formed of the fabric using the stretch yarn, and a feeling sample to be knitted by using said stretch yarn and varying the yarn tension and the stitch loop length of the fabric being knitted;

performing the specification of the finished state of the knitted fabric based on the feeling sample; and

creating knitting control information for knitting the knitted product with the knitting machine according to the specified finished state and the paper pattern data, thereby to form the knitted fabric according to the knitting control information created.

4. (Currently Amended) A knitting apparatus using a stretch yarn for knitting a fabric with a stretch yarn by a knitting machine, comprising:

data storage means for predetermining and storing data specifying relationships between a feed length of the stretch yarn to be used for knitting fed to the knitting machine and a yarn length in a finished state of a knitted fabric obtained by shape memory properties of the stretch yarn, by changing gradually yarn tension of the stretch yarn~~for each of different yarn tensions~~;

specification input means for inputting a specification of the finished state of the knitted fabric; and

control means for creating control data for forming a knitted

fabric with reference to the data stored in the data storage means, while feeding the stretch yarn in the feed length and under the yarn tension corresponding to the finished state of the knitted fabric, so that the knitted fabric is brought into the finished state inputted to the specification input means.

5. (New) The knitting method of claim 2, further comprising:

preparing paper pattern data expressing a shape of a knitted product to be formed of the fabric using the stretch yarn, and a feeling sample to be knitted by using said stretch yarn and varying the yarn tension and the stitch loop length of the fabric being knitted;

performing the specification of the finished state of the knitted fabric based on the feeling sample; and

creating knitting control information for knitting the knitted product with the knitting machine according to the specified finished state and the paper pattern data, thereby to form the knitted fabric according to the knitting control information created.